

program run by the counties. Now I carried a bill a few...a number of years ago which tightened up the requirements for general assistance welfare and, at that time, there was a problem in that the states were basically telling the counties how to operate their general assistance program. And what we found, in looking at that program, was that we had a number of individuals that were healthy males between the ages of 20 to 35 that could be working but were choosing not to work just because of...well, for different reasons, but the counties felt that they could be working, and they felt that the program was not good for those individuals. Now my understanding is that this particular amendment would only apply to those individuals that were a part of the program that was being run by the state and then dropped down into the county program, and I feel that the county should not have to be having to have the burden of these additional individuals on the program. And for that reason, I am going to be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I don't know whether I will vote for your amendment or not, Senator Hall, but I'm glad he brought it up because I do have two amendments, one that is filed, and one that will be filed later to the bill, itself, and they are two bills that I introduced to...and each one of them has a different thrust except they both have to do with impact on costs. LB 684, I asked for...I asked for a study to be made before LB 455 would be implemented, and what we did was we took a survey of the private charity providers across the state, and we received enough answers to give us a pattern from those providers saying that they were running at full capacity and they expressed pessimism that their services could accommodate new cases due to welfare reform. I'd like to point out some statistics from the Nebraska Center for Legal Services, too, if 455 is implemented and families are cut off after two years, and so on. The projected number of children by 1999, the monthly average number of children with reduced or lost ADC benefits will be 20,200. That is a lot of children that the counties and cities are going to have to pick up the care for, and my other bill, LB 580 is the welfare reform unfunded mandate bill. I introduced that to the Appropriations Committee, and will bring it as an amendment on...to the bill, itself, and this one, the unfunded mandate, if it exceeds a certain percentage of the current ADC costs, it either must become a funded mandate through a direct